

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A virtual meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 25th January 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Participants: Cllr S Sabin (in the chair), Cllr D Carter, Cllr B Follett, Cllr B Friar, Cllr A T Hitchcox, Cllr Mrs J P Malin, Cllr R Munn and Cllr J Sudbury

In attendance: WCC Cllr Redford and WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt and Mrs Judy Steele (FoRGE)

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies from Cllr A Malin (illness); there were no declarations of interest.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th November 2020

The Minutes of the virtual Council meeting held on the 30th November 2020 were approved, proposed by Cllr Sudbury and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malin.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council meeting on 30th November 2020

The Chairman and the Clerk reported:

1. A C Lloyd have paid a contribution for the cost of the tree planting at the rear of the site of The Lodge.
2. The grit bin at the junction of Lewis Road and St Nicholas Road has been re-sited as requested and refilled by WCC. The mole catcher has been asked to revisit the Playing Field and reported that no infestation was found but Cllr Sudbury pointed out that there is a new infestation requiring action.
Action: Cllr Sudbury and Clerk
3. WCC consent to the installation of a dog waste bin in The Valley has been obtained and the Clerk has an assurance that insurance cover will be provided.

4. Traffic management issues

1. Cllr Munn reported that he had been advised by the Police that there were currently insufficient numbers of volunteers to conduct a Speedwatch project (so far he has five and a half volunteers). There was debate as to how many locations should be identified for the installation of 'Twenty is Plenty' signs. The quotation obtained indicates a cost of £57.05 for each installation. It was AGREED that 8 locations should be selected; Cllrs Sudbury and Munn to supply the Clerk with a plan with selected sites so that he can obtain approval from WCC.
Action: Cllrs Sudbury & Munn & Clerk
2. With reference to the forthcoming Warwick Rural East Community Forum meeting (date as yet unknown) the suggested Policing priority option going forward for Radford was – anti-social behaviour / drug prevention patrols by the Police; to ensure this is duly considered online voting is required to support the proposition, to be lodged by 6th February 2021. The option obtaining the highest percentage of votes cast becomes the priority for next six months.
Action: All Cllrs

5. Section 106 and CIL payments

1. The Chairman was very pleased to report that he had recently had correspondence with Michael Brown of WDC that Section 106 monies due to this Council from the development at The Cricketers have been received, by WDC, from the developers. This comprises the contribution paid by the developers of £50,410.81 plus an indexation element of £11,939.40 which comprises a total payment due of £62,350.21. It was AGREED that the Clerk will write to make a formal request for payment accordingly.
Action: Clerk

2. In order to facilitate payment by WDC to this Council of the Open Space money relating to the development at Leam View and The Lodge, a funding authority letter was required to be signed on behalf of this Council. The Clerk had renegotiated the terms of the draft letter originally sent by the WDC Open Space officer; since Christmas a response had been received to the effect that the amendments proposed by the Clerk had been accepted so the funding letter is now suitable for signing off. The Chairman asked for approval from Councillors that he and the Clerk should sign off this letter and continue with the process of obtaining the funds. Once the funds were obtained, then this Council would debate further how they should be expended. This was AGREED, proposed by Cllr Sudbury and seconded by Cllr Friar.
Action: Chairman and Clerk

6. Warwickshire County Council – update report

Items reported by WCC Cllr Redford were as follows:

1. As at 24th January 2021 there had been 4 deaths from Covid-19 in Leamington but the rate of infection was still rising with Leamington Willes Ward being in the top 5 affected.
2. A recent scare at North Leamington School of infection had caused closure.
3. On a voluntary basis for the public, lateral tests are available at the Pound Lane centre and the centre at Stoneleigh is to be opened for vaccinations.
4. Following email correspondence between the Clerk and himself, he clarified that the Section 106 money available for the cycle track route on the A425 at £95,000 was insufficient to fund the scheme. The shortfall had been identified as a sum in the capital projects to be considered by WCC at their next cabinet meeting. It was not certain, but the cabinet would have to vote on a number of projects, and he hoped that this one would find favour. The Chairman pointed out that there should be surplus funds from Section 106 payments made in respect of the Bovis site to be added to the funding for the cycle track. Cllr Carter expressed the view that it was a good scheme and worthy of being pressed by WCC Cllr Redford who said he had already done it.
5. Cllr Sudbury enquired as to progress on the installation of a bollard at the entrance to footpath W123 (adjacent to 9 Lythall Close). WCC Cllr Redford said that WCC Footpaths Dept had approval now of a new siting of the bollard (as previously minuted, this is likely to be some way up the footpath from Lewis Road and not at the entrance). The Clerk said he had emailed the department today for an update but had not received a reply. He will pursue this.
Action: Clerk

7. Warwick District Council – update report

WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt reported:

1. Some activity by WDC is likely to be slow because all staff and Councillors are working from home.
2. There are now ten different grants available to support businesses; in particular the one available for the leisure industries expires on 29th January 2021. The WDC parks are open to the public although the leisure centres are closed. Steps are being taken to prepare for the Commonwealth Games despite the uncertainty.
3. Stratford District Council and WDC are working on joint action on a number of areas (there is to be a joint session to consider future projects on the forthcoming 28th January when Cllr Carter will attend).
4. The ultimate disposal of Riverside House and the creation of a new HQ for WDC is still being discussed.
5. Notice had been given on the removal of rubbish banks from public areas; this is part of an overhaul of the recycling programme generally.

8. Financial Matters

1. The Clerk reported that (as per the reconciliation statement circulated), the balance on the investment account is approx. £34,000 and the balance on the operating account is approx £19,000 approx.

2. A number of payments were authorised to be made as per the list circulated prior to the meeting, in particular a payment of the Clerk's salary for the current quarter in the sum of £2,035.90, proposed by Cllr Sudbury and seconded by Cllr Munn.

9. Correspondence

1. The Domain Name in respect of the website has been transferred into the Clerk's name.
2. A letter dated 6th January 2021 had been received from Simon Richardson of WDC confirming the parks are to be kept open – the Clerk pointed out this gives authority for this Council to leave the Playing Field on an open basis.
3. The Clerk invited ideas from Cllrs to take up the services of WCAVA who are offering to provide inspirational ideas; Cllr Friar said he had come across them in a different Connection and could recommend them.
4. It had come to light that unfortunately one of the street names in Semele Park recording the name of a fallen hero from the First World War had been incorrectly spelt. The Clerk had written to the appropriate quarter to try and get the spelling changed both on the records and on the street sign.
5. The Clerk reminded the meeting that with regard to the issues surrounding the land adjacent to Hallfields, he had written before Christmas to WCC to obtain more clarity and awaited a reply.
6. The Clerk had received a note from former chairman, David Chater, in his capacity as chairman of the Community Hall asking this Council to take steps to effect tidying up actions in respect of the Community Hall car park. The Chairman said he and the Clerk would review this and report back.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

10. Planning Matters

1. W/15/1635 - 56 Southam Road
WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt had received a note from the Planning Enforcement Dept replying that they were marking time on action in respect of 56 Southam Road pending clarification on the boundary from WCC. The Clerk had followed this up by enquiring with Mr Brooks of WCC; he had replied to the Clerk today to the effect that he saw no reason why the Planning Enforcement Dept should not take action in respect of the fence whilst WCC reviewed the boundary issue. It was AGREED that WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt would pursue this with the Planning Enforcement Dept.
Action: WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt
2. 9 Lythall Close (ongoing)
The current position is as above.
3. W/20/1699 – 13 Thornley Close
The arrangements for this property have now been dealt with.
4. Canalside Development Plan Consultation Document
The Clerk had submitted a letter of argument to WDC on the Canalside Development Plan Consultation Document having been ably assisted by Cllr Carter with a basic draft. WDC Cllr Mrs Leigh-Hunt had also submitted a letter in backup and the Clerk had received confirmation that his letter had been received. For the record, our submission on this matter is that the field to the east of Church Lane has been omitted from the consultation document whilst the field to the west has been included. Whether or not omitted in error, this Council's submission is that the eastern field should be included in the Plan.

11. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Friar gave a brief update on the Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that the Examiner's report from Mr Timothy Jones (a barrister specialising in planning matters) has been very fair to the draft Neighbourhood Plan but the Examiner has raised some issues. Cllr Friar pointed out that we are in the position where we either reject the report and start the Plan again or accept the Examiner's proposals for amendments to the document accordingly. The major issue is the Examiner's proposal to delete reference to the field to the south of the current AC Lloyd building development. Cllr Sudbury felt that firm language should be adopted in a response letter indicating the Council's disquiet, but Cllr Friar pointed out that if our response is too strong it may have the effect of confirming rejection of the Examiner's report with consequent impact on the

draft Neighbourhood Plan. It was AGREED that the Clerk would send a letter of acceptance incorporating some appropriate language drafted by Cllr Friar.

Action: Cllr Friar and Clerk

12. Update on the Playing Field

1. Cllr Follett said that Wicksteed's quotation for some of the repair work having been accepted they have indicated they are about to start working in February.
2. The application for the grant from FCC having been refused for the outdoor gym equipment, he is continuing his enquiries to find suitable funding.
3. In respect of the skate park, he has formed the view that both the equipment and the surrounding area need to be refurbished and he will report back with costings for this including the cost of new skateboards, probably at this Council's meeting in March. The indication is that repair work is better carried out in the spring weather.
4. He is looking at the logistics and costings of zip-wire slide and will report back with costings at the March or April meeting of this Council.
5. It was noted that HS2 are in the position of issuing grants for rural development – WCC Cllr Redford said that Eathorpe Parish Council had recently received £40,000 under the scheme. It appears that another grant had been issued to Long Itchington Parish Council. WCC Cllr Redford will direct Cllr Follett to the appropriate funding application form.
6. Cllr Sudbury raised the question of tree pruning of a large tree in the vicinity of the site of The Lodge. He had obtained a quotation from a tree surgeon who had recently carried out work in Godfrey Close which had been very acceptable. He sought the approval of the Council to have this work carried out at the price quoted. The Clerk pointed out (supported by Cllr Friar) that the decision to spend money of any amount should be flagged up as an agenda item in advance and Cllrs called upon to pass a resolution approving the item with due notice of it. It was AGREED therefore to put this matter on the agenda for the February meeting. **Action: Clerk**
7. Cllr Sudbury pointed out that the pathway adjacent to the site needs cleaning; the Clerk advised this is part and parcel of the issue surrounding the Community Hall car park and is to be reviewed by himself and the Chairman as previously indicated.

13. Update on Scout Hut

Cllr Friar said there was nothing to report on the Scout Hut project.

14. Update report on Sports & Social Club matters and Community Hall

Cllr Mrs Malin said there was nothing to report.

15. Update report from Community Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs Malin had tabled a report from the Community Hall Committee, and she read from it. The major point arising was the need to carry out fire safety checks and fire safety alarm checks.

16. Update on School matters

There was nothing to report save that Cllr Sudbury outlined that there had been a proposal from the School or the PTA that there should be a further defibrillator installed at the School. The Chairman suggested a better site for a further defibrillator would be at the Community Hall which was much more broadly used than the School premises. It may be that the continued installation of a defibrillator at the premises of the White Lion PH should be reviewed; Cllr Sudbury said he was carrying out regular checks of both defibrillator sites to ensure that they were working. As concern was expressed as to whether the owners of the White Lion PH might turn off the electricity supply it was AGREED that the Clerk would write to the proprietors to check the position with them.

Action: Clerk

17. Report on the website

Cllr Friar said that no progress had been reached on recruitment of a website creative manager. Cllr Musa indicated that it might be a better course to recruit a local person possibly on a pro bono basis and he was looking at that.

Action: Cllrs Friar & Musa

18. Update on Covid-19 Support group arrangements

Cllr Friar said that the cost of Covid-19 support action had been factored into the budget. There was an element of support from WDC was a possibility with regard to specific care of the over 70s.

19. Review of emergency procedures

Cllr Sudbury said that the Emergency Procedures Plan which had been approved by this Council at the last meeting had now been filed with the CSW so the matter could be taken off the agenda.

20. Update on pond refurbishment

Cllr Sudbury reported that he and Cllr Hitchcox had met with representatives of FoRGE and as a result of the discussion, it was envisaged that the latter would obtain a report on environmental and conservation factors affecting refurbishment of the pond. Mrs Steele said that FoRGE had not been able to obtain this report as yet as matters had been slowed up by the pandemic, but it was in hand. Cllr Sudbury indicated that item could be taken off the Council's agenda for the time being.

21. Offchurch Lane-Viaduct-Greenway Link

Cllr Follett tabled a report on the matter. He had received emails from Mr Fitzgerald, who lives in the village, regarding the potential linking of the Offchurch Greenway to the village via the railway viaduct and a new Offchurch Lane off-road footpath. This has come about because he has been in discussion with John Grimshaw (Greenways and Cycle Routes. org) who has been approached by the Government to look at improving footway and cycleway links in Warwickshire that are affected by the HS2 project. Two projects in the Offchurch locale were essential to secure the long term aims and for which Offchurch PC and those mentioned above sought our support. The projects are 1, the construction of an underpass at the now blocked Greenway route at the Welsh Road crossing and 2, the construction of a footbridge over the Fosse Way near the site of the old railway bridge. Both are deemed necessary to ensure a safe passageway for walkers and cyclists alike. It was AGREED that this Council would be supportive of these schemes/proposals, proposed by Cllr Sudbury and seconded by Cllr Friar. The Chairman stated that he would write to the appropriate person accordingly. The meeting was also advised that Sustrans had placed a scheme before Rugby Borough Council which if accepted would see an improved Greenway/Cycle route between Leamington Spa and Rugby, making use of the old railway line as well as opening up the route of the old Lias Line to Long Itchington. The issue of the off-road footpath, connecting Offchurch Lane to Radford Bottom Lock was still in hand. Cllr Follett has arranged to walk the possible route with Henry Marriott.

Action: Chairman & Cllr Follett

22. Any other business

1. It was **AGREED** that the draft dates that had been circulated should be accepted with the Chairman's proviso that he might seek to add one or two extra meetings during the forthcoming year 2021/2022; particularly a meeting in December to scrutinise the Precept papers in the light of the tax base published at the end of November. It was further **AGREED** that an Annual Parish Meeting might be feasible in the summer months depending on the outcome of the pandemic. The Chairman and the Clerk are to review.
2. Cllr Sudbury raised the question of the ditch adjacent to the old Lodge site which could do with being filled in. This does not work as a ditch in relation to any water and it appears to have been created over 150 years ago to indicate the boundary of the land which now forms the Playing Field.
3. Cllr Sudbury reported that enquiries as to interest for a carnival in the forthcoming year had raised a lot of enthusiasm. It was now felt that the summer months would be too early in the face of the pandemic, but a projected date could be September 2021. Cllr Sudbury to pursue.
Action: Cllr Sudbury
4. Cllr Sudbury raised the issue of Cllrs having ID badges in order to deal sensibly with members of the public etc. Cllr Friar said that he would be able to create these fairly easily using his digital facilities. It was **AGREED** that he should proceed to prepare these.
Action: Cllr Friar

23. Date of next meeting

It was AGREED that this will take place on 22nd February 2021 (in virtual format). This meeting closed at 9.45 pm

The Clerk reminded Council that the Chairman of WDC, Martin Ashford, is due to visit the meeting of this Council in February.

Signed.....

Date..... 2021

Chairman of the Parish Council

Counter signed.....

Date.....2021

Clerk to the Parish Council